

Reading 1

Profiles of the Gifted and Talented

What is the concept proposed by the authors?

The concept proposed by the authors is that when identifying gifted children one must look at the whole child. There are many factors that must be taken into consideration, 'emotional, social, cognitive and physical factors'.

Which groups of children may be excluded from standard testing?

Double labeled children may be excluded from standard testing.

Which other identification methods may overcome this inequality?

- Comparing observations of the child's whole development; personal, social, emotional, language, communication and physical.
- Talking to the parents and gathering more information about the child's background and home environment.
- Inviting another colleague to observe the child and discussing observations afterwards.

Which identification methods are appropriate for your school and why?

Certainly looking at the child's whole development is a worthwhile way of identifying gifted children. In the Early Years department we use an assessment sheet that is scaled from one to nine in relation to six areas of development: Personal, social and emotional, Communication Language and Literacy, Problem solving, reasoning and numeracy, Knowledge and understanding of the world, Physical development and Creative development. Observing where the child is on this scale is a good indicator of how the child compares to his/her peers. From this, the class teacher can then meet with the parents to gather some background

information about what they have observed regarding how their child learns and has developed.